

KCUMB magazine

KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES | WINTER 2013

True Texas Grit

KCUMB Alum Demonstrates Courage,
Professionalism While Working to Save
Lives the Night of a Devastating Explosion

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE | CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATE FINDS INSPIRATION

page 10

page 30

At KCUMB, We've Been "Improving the Well-Being of the Communities We Serve" for Nearly 100 Years



We Live Our Mission

Most organizations have a mission statement. Few take that mission to heart the way that we do at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Our faculty members don't just show up for work; they strive to find innovative ways of preparing the next generation of physicians.

Our staff doesn't just sit behind their desks all day; they go to local elementary schools to help provide health screenings through KCUMB's Score 1 for Health program.

Our students don't spend all their time studying; they travel to remote villages in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic to offer free medical care to people who otherwise would go without.

At KCUMB, we're here for the greater good. We live our mission every day. And, that's something we can all be proud of.

Features

10 A Vision for the Future

KCUMB announces a five-year, \$60 million plan designed to create a state-of-the-art learning environment for future students.

14 True Texas Grit

A KCUMB alum demonstrates courage, professionalism while working to save lives the night of a devastating fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas.

22 Student, Family Succeed Together

Medical school is difficult. Having nine children is no cake walk either, as one KCUMB student has come to appreciate.

30 Kingdom of Judah

A Class of 2013 graduate channels grief, vision into inspiration for becoming a physician.

Departments

- 3 President's Message
- 4 By the Numbers
- 5 Along the Avenue
- 36 Alumni News
- 40 Class Notes
- 43 In Memoriam
- 44 Pop Quiz

Front Cover

George Smith, D.O. (COM '74), stands outside what remains of his house in West, Texas, following a massive explosion at the nearby West Fertilizer Company. Injured in the blast, Dr. Smith continued treating others in the aftermath. KCUMB honored Dr. Smith in September as its 2013 Alumnus of the Year. *(photo by Joe Griffin)*



14



22



30

FIRST impressions

Aaron Mills, a second-year osteopathic medical student, practices his physical examination skills Sept. 17 during a Score 1 for Health screening for Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School students on the KCUMB campus. (photo by Cortney Christensen)



KCUMBmagazine

KCUMB Magazine is published twice a year by the University Relations Department for alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

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PRESIDENT'Smessage

KCUMB is making a significant and positive impact on the communities we serve. In particular, we:

- Provide the second-largest number of physicians in Missouri and Kansas
- Alleviate physician workforce shortages nationally, with 72 percent of our more than 7,700 practicing alumni in primary care specialties
- Deliver much-needed medical care in underserved areas, with 33 percent of alumni practicing in rural areas nationwide
- Rank as the largest medical school in Missouri and the 14th-largest in the United States
- Stand as one of the five original colleges of osteopathic medicine

This is an exciting time for KCUMB as we look toward our 100th anniversary in 2016 and position the University as a leader among health sciences universities.

The next few years will play a pivotal role in achieving our vision for KCUMB's future. We will:

- Become the most student-focused medical university in the nation
- Build the best University team
- Create the greatest workplace in the region

Learn more about our progress in this issue of KCUMB Magazine, especially our recently announced Campus Master Plan. Our five-year, \$60 million plan will transform KCUMB into a state-of-the-art learning environment for future students.

We can accomplish great things, but we can't do it alone. We need your help to carry our message forward. I invite you to become an ambassador of KCUMB. By working together, we will help our students be more successful, and, at the same time, strengthen our national reputation.

If I can be of assistance to you or answer any questions, please feel free to email me at president@kcumb.edu.

Yours truly,

Marc B. Hahn, D.O.
President and Chief Executive Officer

BY THE numbers



17

The percentage increase in applications received by KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine as of Dec. 6, when compared to the same time last year.

56.9

The percentage of Class of 2013 graduates who entered ACGME-accredited postgraduate training programs, compared with 34.9 percent who entered AOA-accredited programs and 7.8 percent who entered military programs.

149

The number of participants in KCUMB's Fall CME Scientific Seminar and Update in Clinical Medicine, which took place Sept. 18-21 during the University's Homecoming celebration. The event offered participants the opportunity to earn as many as 25 hours of CME credit.



98.3

The percentage of KCUMB osteopathic medical students who passed COMLEX-USA Level 1 in the Class of 2015, compared with the national average of 91.26 percent. The exam is typically given to second-year osteopathic medical students and emphasizes the scientific concepts and principles necessary for understanding mechanisms of health, medical problems and disease processes.

30

The percentage of KCUMB alumni who practice in the five-state region comprised of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Illinois, according to data compiled by the National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data.



21.6

The percentage of Class of 2013 graduates who chose to pursue residency opportunities in family medicine. KCUMB graduates' top three choices were all primary care fields – family medicine, internal medicine (15.6 percent) and pediatrics (9.2 percent).

265

The number of first-year osteopathic medical students who started classes in August. This makes it the largest class size since 2008, when the University had 267 first-year students.

60

Millions of dollars KCUMB will invest over the next five years to improve its facilities and create a state-of-the-art health sciences campus. Learn more on Page 10.

1

The number of private medical schools in the United States that reduced tuition for the 2013-2014 academic year – KCUMB.

ALONGthe avenue

University Names New Provost and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Bruce Dubin, D.O., J.D., recently joined KCUMB as executive vice president for academic affairs, provost and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. He fills the vacancy created when Marc B. Hahn, D.O., assumed the role of president and chief executive officer July 1.

"Bruce Dubin is one of the great thought leaders in osteopathic medical education today," Dr. Hahn said. "We are extraordinarily pleased to have him lead our academic endeavors at KCUMB. His dedication to teaching and his understanding of the classroom dynamic has made him an extraordinary administrator, and we look forward to his influence here at KCUMB."



Dr. Dubin

Dr. Dubin previously worked at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, Colo., where he served as the dean and chief academic officer since 2009. He also served as interim president from 2011-2013.

Prior to his time at RVUCOM, Dr. Dubin served in leadership roles at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Ft. Worth, including as vice dean, interim dean and associate dean of academic affairs of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

He also served as associate dean for academic affairs for Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine from 2002-2003, and as associate dean at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio, from 1999-2002.

"I am very excited to become of a member of the KCUMB team," Dr. Dubin said. "Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience has a long and well-established reputation as a great leader in health science education. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and students of this wonderful University."



KCUMB's Advocates for Diversity in Medicine Club was recognized Oct. 17 by the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Mo., for its service to the community. Allison Jakeman, a second-year osteopathic medical student, accepted the Housing Authority's Achievement Honoree Award, in recognition of the ADM Club's continual community outreach efforts.

KCUMB Application Numbers Rise as Enrollment at Osteopathic Colleges Continues Growth

Over the past decade, enrollment at colleges of osteopathic medicine across the country has nearly doubled. In fact, new student enrollment at osteopathic medical colleges grew by 11.1 percent this year alone, according to data released recently by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

That increase is good news, especially as the United States faces an impending shortage of primary care physicians that some reports suggest could reach 50,000 by 2025.

"Because large numbers of new osteopathic physicians become primary care physicians, often in rural and underserved areas, it is evident that the osteopathic medical profession will help the nation alleviate a primary care physician crisis," said Stephen C. Shannon, D.O., MPH, president and chief executive officer for AACOM. "And colleges of osteopathic medicine are expanding and increasing to meet this demand."

The rate of new student enrollment at osteopathic medical colleges also outpaced that of allopathic schools, which saw an increase of 2.8 percent, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Richard Winslow, Ph.D., KCUMB's vice provost of student and enrollment services, said KCUMB is also seeing signs of the rising demand, most notably a significant increase in applications to the College of Osteopathic Medicine for the 2014-2015. He's hopeful the larger applicant pool will ultimately result in KCUMB enrolling more high-quality applicants.

"This fall, KCUMB-COM applications have increased 17 percent over last year," Winslow said. "This provides us with us an edge for enrolling and training the best students to become osteopathic physicians. As the second-leading provider of physicians in both Missouri and Kansas, this will have a tremendous impact on the delivery of health care in our region."

KCUMB graduates approximately 250 new doctors of osteopathic medicine each year.

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Check Out the Current Edition of KCUMB Magazine on Your Electronic Device

www.kcumb.edu/KCUMBmagazine

ALONG the avenue

KCUMB Center for Community and Clinical Research Aims to Advance Health Research, Improve Community Wellness

In hopes of better serving the surrounding community, KCUMB recently brought together two aspects of its research program under one, unified umbrella.

KCUMB's Center for Community and Clinical Research, which officially launched operations in September, combines the strength of the University's existing clinical research center with the expertise of a dedicated team of community health researchers.

"We really need to align ourselves closely with the true needs of the community," said Stan McDermott, Pharm.D.,



Dr. McDermott

M.S., director of the CCCR and associate professor of pharmacology. "What we study needs to make a difference for the community. Otherwise, it doesn't really matter that much. We need to connect with them in a real way."

Dr. McDermott, who has more than 30 years of experience in clinical trial research, joined KCUMB on July 29 after serving as vice president for the Center for Clinical Trials and Product Development at Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA) in Akron, Ohio.

The focus of KCUMB's CCCR is advancing health research and improving community wellness. While the clinical research aspect of the CCCR targets future medical therapies and improving health, the community health research component will empower neighborhoods by providing resources for healthy living.

In addition to broadening the focus of the CCCR, officials dropped the use of the Dybedal Clinical Research Center name. They hope the decision will help people better identify the CCCR as being part of KCUMB, which has better brand recognition. The building that houses the CCCR will remain the Dybedal Center for Research.

KCUMB's CCCR has already participated in several health fairs, offering free screenings for a variety of medical conditions. Not only does participating in health fairs offer opportunities to get the center's name out in the community, but it can also lead to opportunities for staff to recruit potential study participants.

"On the clinical trial side, we're interested in better informing communities of clinical trials as a possibility for increasing their access to health care," he said. "Let's say we have a patient in our community that really doesn't have a primary care physician. They may have a disease like diabetes, hypertension or respiratory problems that aren't being directly

addressed or treated by health-care professionals. If they need treatment, we can offer that treatment free of charge in the form of a research study."

KCUMB's CCCR staff tries to focus its patient education efforts on health-care topics of interest in the community.

"It's not just to try to get people into clinical trials," he said. "We are interested in that, but it's much more than that. It's helping people pay more attention to their health and addressing those issues."

Community health research can tackle a variety of issues, such as whether a particular neighborhood has safe, well-equipped parks where children can get regular exercise.

Learn more at www.kcumb.edu/CCCR.



National Organization Names KCUMB Professor as 2013 Internist of the Year

The American College of Osteopathic Internists recently bestowed one of its highest honors upon a member of the KCUMB faculty.

Kevin Hubbard, D.O. (COM '86), professor and chair of internal medicine, was named ACOI's 2013 Internist of the Year, in recognition of his contributions to the practice of osteopathic internal medicine. Dr. Hubbard was officially recognized Oct. 11 during the organization's annual conference in Indian Wells, Calif.



Dr. Hubbard

Each year, ACOI presents the Internist of the Year award to a physician who is held in high esteem by osteopathic internal medicine leaders for leadership, development and teaching excellence.

"Dr. Hubbard is highly regarded by his colleagues, not only as a hematologist-oncologist, but also as a leader in the osteopathic professional and educational communities," said Marc B. Hahn, D.O., KCUMB's president and chief executive officer. "He has an innate ability to apply his knowledge with wisdom and compassion, which sets him apart as an excellent physician, role model and mentor for KCUMB's student doctors."

KCUMB Announces Partnership to Improve Access to Health Care Near Campus

Two anchor institutions in Kansas City's Northeast Neighborhood announced a collaborative partnership recently that brings together Missouri's largest medical school and the state's first Federally Qualified Health Center.

Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center and Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences reached an agreement in September that significantly enhances access to health-care services in the historic Northeast Neighborhood that both organizations call home.



The new partnership, which took effect Oct. 1, provides greatly needed primary care physicians for SURHC, while expanding educational opportunities for KCUMB's osteopathic medical students.

"We are two institutions with like missions and a common focus – to improve the well-being and health of our community," said Marc B. Hahn, D.O., KCUMB's president and chief executive officer.

"Individually, KCUMB and Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center make enormous impacts in the northeast community," he added. "It's exciting to anticipate how, together, we will provide even better access to clinical services and address health disparities that exist within our own community. At the same time, we're expanding our osteopathic medical students' clinical training opportunities during their four years of medical school and beyond into graduate medical education."

Seven board-certified primary care physicians from KCUMB's clinical faculty will provide some of the medical services, and the University's osteopathic medical students will participate in clinical training activities at SURHC's new state-of-the-art location near the KCUMB campus.

SURHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center, which qualifies the center for receiving federal funding to serve populations with limited access to health care, including low income people, the uninsured and those with limited English proficiency. Last year, SURHC provided culturally competent medical, dental and behavioral health services to 21,000 patients.

"This partnership is an exceptional opportunity for both of our organizations," said Hilda Fuentes, chief executive officer of Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center. "Ultimately, the beneficiaries of this partnership will be our patients who will receive the highest quality care available."

Osteopathic Medical Students Discuss Residency Opportunities with Hospital Representatives

Approximately 600 of KCUMB's osteopathic medical students gathered Sept. 13 at Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., to meet with hospital representatives from across the country, who were in town to promote their residency programs.

This year's event featured more than 75 hospitals and related medical organizations. First- and second-year osteopathic medical students attended, along with many third- and fourth-year students who were completing clerkships in the Kansas City area. Students were able to ask questions and learn more about the various opportunities available to them after graduation.

Next year's Hospital Day is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2014. For more information on how you or your organization can be part of the event, contact KCUMB's Office of Community and Clinical Education at 816-654-7333 or visit www.kcumb.edu/HospitalDay.



KCUMB Hosts 22nd Annual Research Symposium

Faculty and students gathered Nov. 21-22 to share their own research initiatives and learn from others in the field during the 22nd annual KCUMB Research Symposium, which focused on "Population Health: The Impact of Translational Research."

More than 50 research abstracts were presented during the symposium, some orally and some as posters.

A team of judges chose the best abstracts. Winners were:

- John Frey, a second-year osteopathic medical student, recipient of the Norbert W. Seidler, Ph.D., Prize for Research (first place), "A Role for Raptor Phosphorylation in the Mechanical Activation of mTOR Signaling"
- Eric Czer, a second-year osteopathic medical student, recipient of second place and the Betty Jo White, D.O., FACOS, Prize for Research, "Unexpected Anatomical Variations of the Anterior Talofibular Ligament"
- Kenna Schnarr, a second-year osteopathic medical student, third place, "Investigation of the Role of Carcinoma-Associated Fibroblasts in Tumor Angiogenesis"

KCUMB President Plays Key Role in National Commission's Report Proposing Overhaul of Medical Education

A national panel of osteopathic medical experts released a report this week detailing recommendations for the overhaul of medical education that could proactively address the nation's imminent physician shortage.

Marc B. Hahn, D.O., KCUMB's president and chief executive officer, served as co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) for the Advancement of Osteopathic Medical Education, the panel that wrote the report.



Dr. Hahn

As more Americans gain access to health care under the Affordable Care Act and aging baby boomers require increasing care, the physician shortage in the United States is projected to reach more than 100,000 by 2025.

The BRC report calls for sweeping reforms to medical education that could help mitigate the shortage of primary care physicians. Two of the three key recommendations

are to increase clinical experience for medical students early in medical school and to advance students from medical

school to residency, and residency training to practice, based on readiness rather than years of study.

"Providing more clinical experience in a wide range of environments starting in their first year in medical school will provide students a more seamless transition from medical school to graduate medical education," Dr. Hahn said. "This leads to earlier completion of medical school, which would be determined by a student's readiness for residency training, rather than number of years of study. Similarly, completion of residency training should be based on a resident physician's readiness for practice, not just years of training."

The third recommendation is to provide a stronger focus on primary care and preparedness to function in the modern health-care system.

"This new pathway will focus on the training of primary care physicians who are team-based and who practice patient-centered care," Dr. Hahn said. "The Blue Ribbon Commission believes this pathway will reduce the shortage of primary care physicians, particularly in underserved areas, and will also help decrease the debt burden for our medical students."

"These recommendations represent both a disruptive innovation in how we educate medical students and a challenge to our current system of medical education," Dr. Hahn added. "But, we are adamant that these changes are necessary in order to educate physicians who are ready to address the health-care needs of the 21st century."

Physician shortages already affect patients, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. According to the BRC report, there was a 30 percent decrease in the number of medical school graduates entering primary care fields from 2000 to 2010. Today, 60 percent of osteopathic physicians practice primary care, and many practice in underserved areas.

An analysis of the BRC report, co-authored by Dr. Hahn, can be found in the November issue of *Health Affairs*, a peer-reviewed journal of health policy and research.



New Osteopathic Medical Students Participate in Two KCUMB Traditions During Orientation Week

Incoming first-year osteopathic medical students began their academic year by participating in two annual KCUMB traditions – We Care Community Service Day and the White Coating Ceremony.

On Aug. 7, the 271 new students fanned out across the Kansas City area to as part of the 17th annual We Care Community Service Day (pictured at right). We Care, which included various projects at 14 community organizations, is one of the most visible examples of how KCUMB lives out its mission to improve the well-being of the diverse communities it serves.

"Medical school is only the beginning of their commitment to a career of service," said Sara Selkirk, executive director of community and



College of Biosciences Celebrates Eighth Commencement

Thirty-five students were awarded master's degrees in bioethics or biomedical sciences July 30 as KCUMB's College of Biosciences hosted its eighth commencement ceremony at Weaver Auditorium on campus.

The College of Biosciences' two programs teach the skills necessary for careers in medicine or the life sciences. The master of arts in bioethics program prepares graduates to face critical health-care challenges revolving around ethical and humanistic issues. The master of science in biomedical sciences program prepares graduates for careers as research scientists in biomedical laboratories.

More than 60 percent of the COB graduates will continue their education by pursuing doctoral-level degrees in medicine, with the majority already studying to become osteopathic physicians through KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

student affairs. "We believe it is important to place emphasis on this aspect of caring for people and community even before a student attends his or her first class."

The following night, on Aug. 8, the same incoming first-year students joined with their families and friends for a special rite of passage as KCUMB hosted its traditional White Coating Ceremony (pictured at left).

During the ceremony, the new students have the white coats of physicians placed upon them by current physicians. Some chose parents or grandparents, brothers or sisters, or mentors to do the honors, while KCUMB faculty also participated.

The White Coating Ceremony is considered by many KCUMB students as one of the most special times in their medical school careers.

Community Garden Harvests Nearly One Ton of Produce for the Northeast Neighborhood

KCUMB faculty, staff and students worked together throughout the year to contribute to garden maintenance and educate local elementary students on the benefits of eating healthy.

In spite of a late start to the growing season due to last year's delayed winter weather, the total amount of produce cultivated in the garden equaled 1,937 pounds, just shy of the one-ton mark.

Children from Scuola Vita Nova Charter Elementary and Della Lamb Charter School made field trips to the garden, where they planted and harvested fresh vegetables. The produce was then distributed to the schools, along with the Della Lamb Food Pantry, Harvesters and Grace United Ministries.





A Vision for the Future

KCUMB Announces Five-Year, \$60 Million Plan to Transform the Campus

***Campus Master Plan Recognizes the Critical Role Facilities
Play in Accomplishing the Strategic Goals of the University***

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is dedicated to providing unparalleled educational experiences for its students in a state-of-the-art learning environment that seamlessly incorporates the latest technology.

With that in mind, KCUMB officials in 2011 enlisted the help of Helix Architecture, a Kansas City, Mo.-based firm, to ensure that the facilities available on campus were adequate for achieving the goals set forth by the University's Strategic Plan.

In July 2013, KCUMB officials unveiled the comprehensive Campus Master Plan, which identifies facilities upgrades needed for the immediate future. The plan calls for several major improvements, including:

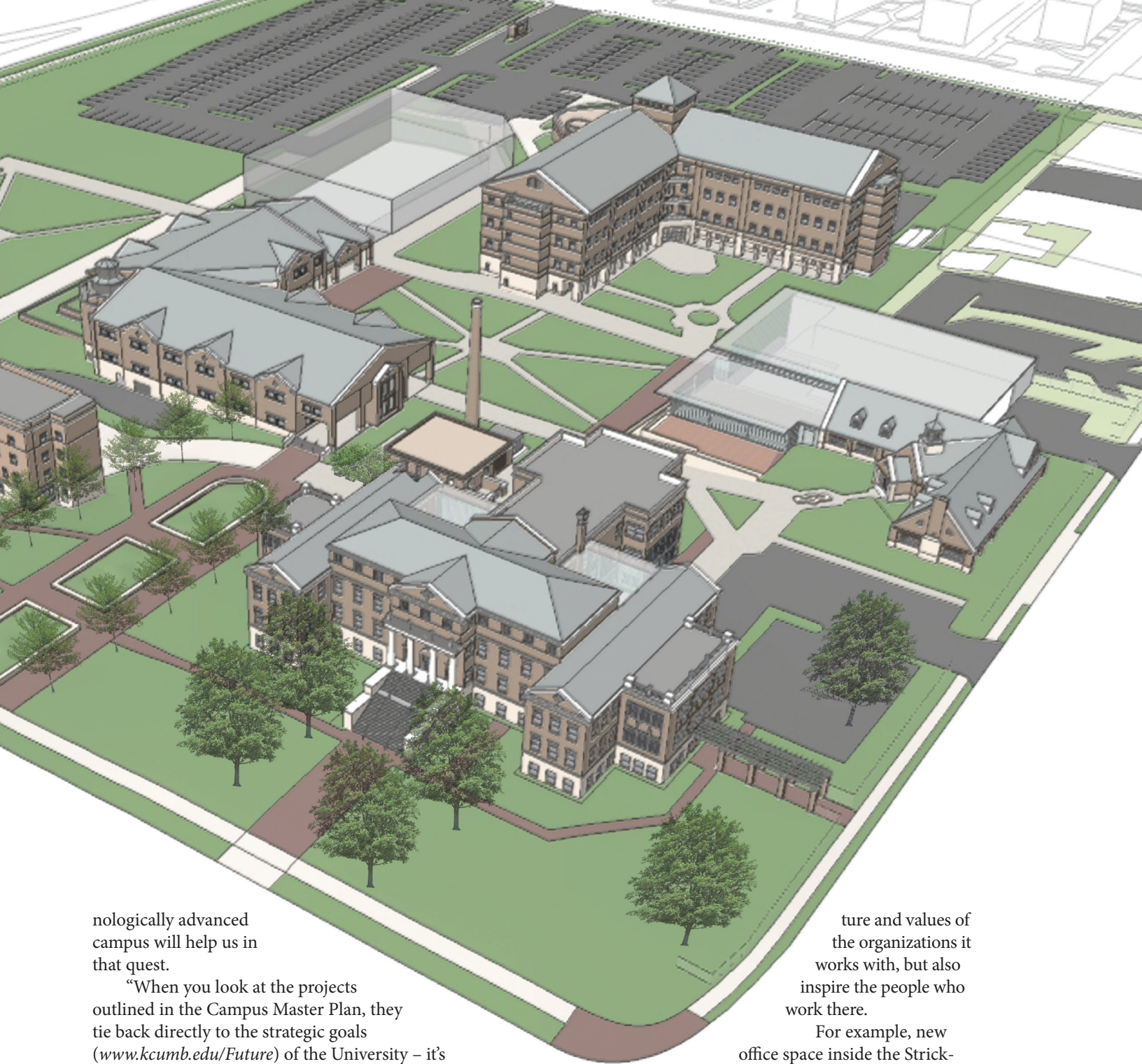
- A New Academic Center
- A New Center for Medical Simulation
- Renovations to the Administration Building
- A New Health and Wellness Center,
Including a Cafeteria
- A Cohesive, Better Connected Campus Environment

KCUMB will spend nearly \$60 million over the next five years to realize this vision, which creates a state-of-the-art home to support the University's academic, research and clinical missions, as well as a more cohesive campus environment, which is safe, neighborly and pedestrian friendly.

"The Campus Master Plan is an integral part of fulfilling our vision for the future of the University," said Marc B. Hahn, D.O., president and chief executive officer. "Not only does the Campus Master Plan represent a huge step forward in creating a world-class learning environment, but it also reflects the high-tech, student-focused culture that will define KCUMB in the years to come."

With KCUMB's centennial anniversary in 2016, Dr. Hahn believes this is the time to set the stage for the University's next 100 years.

"KCUMB is the largest medical school in Missouri and the 14th-largest in the United States," Dr. Hahn said. "We're on the cusp of becoming one of the best health sciences universities in the nation and a modern, tech-



nologically advanced campus will help us in that quest.

“When you look at the projects outlined in the Campus Master Plan, they tie back directly to the strategic goals (www.kcumb.edu/Future) of the University – it’s adding classroom space, it’s incorporating new technologies, and it’s creating a healthier working environment.”

One of Helix’s considerations during development of the Campus Master Plan was how to maintain the historic feel of the KCUMB campus, but also balance that with some modern touches that show the University as a cutting-edge institution.

“The attempt is to leverage the history here and augment that with a real sense of innovation in a dynamic environment,” said Joseph Massman, executive vice president for finance and operations, chief financial officer and chief operating officer. “That’s what Helix does really well.”

One area of Helix Architecture’s expertise is in creating unique environments that not only reflect the cul-

ture and values of the organizations it works with, but also inspire the people who work there.

For example, new office space inside the Strickland Education Pavilion has a more modern look, with an emphasis on creating areas for collaboration among faculty and staff. The offices themselves have glass walls, which help to enliven the space and encourage open communication.

The anatomy laboratory in the basement of Strickland Education Pavilion is also being expanded to provide additional space for students, and previously unfinished laboratory space in the Dybedal Center for Research is now being completed.

In addition, the University recently completed construction of a new home for the Office of Safety and Emergency Management on the first floor of Smith

continued on page 12

Hall. The expanded space and more centralized location allows campus security officers to better monitor and respond to any situations that might arise.

All this construction comes with a cost, of course. University officials plan to pay for the \$60 million in upgrades by using some of the University's existing cash reserves, issuing new debt and conducting targeted fund-raising efforts.

"We can pay for it, but it's going to require us to be fiscally prudent, because we will need to pay down debt as we move forward," Massman said.

While expensive, Massman said this level of investment shows that the Board of Trustees is committed to making KCUMB "a top-tier organization."

"It's a huge investment for the students, especially

Goals Set Forth in KCUMB's 2012-2016 Strategic Plan

1. Enhance Student Success
2. Enhance Research Activity
3. Promote and Increase Internal and External Service
4. Promote Sustainability Across the Institution
5. Enhance Institutional Diversity

with the Academic Center and the Center for Medical Simulation," he said. "I think it's also an investment in our people. Having modern facilities for us to work in and collaborate in is going to make this a better place to work. It's also going to make it easier to attract and retain strong people who we want."

Both higher education, in general, and the health-care field, specifically, are very competitive areas that change quickly. By making a commitment to staying on the leading edge, KCUMB will ensure it is able to meet the health-care demands of its next century.

"I believe that our facilities now are probably better than average, but I think that when we're done, we will have a very unique campus," Massman said. "We'll set the bar really high for everyone else."

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.

Follow Our Progress, Without Even Needing a Hard Hat

www.kcumb.edu/Future

- Learn more about each of the projects included in the Campus Master Plan.
- See current architectural renderings of how new facilities may look when finished.
- Read the full Campus Master Plan developed by Helix Architecture.
- Watch the live construction webcam inside the new Academic Center.
- View detailed progress updates for each project.
- Read KCUMB's Strategic Plan to find out how the Campus Master Plan is helping achieve the University's strategic goals.



Exterior of New Security Space



New Office Space Inside Strickland Education Pavilion



Interior of New Security Space

An Up-Close Look at the Major Projects

A New Academic Center

KCUMB will remodel the interior of Weaver Auditorium, transforming it into a state-of-the-art learning environment for students. By adding to the second floor and reconfiguring the building, the University will create two large, state-of-the-art auditoriums and several smaller classrooms for daily use. Renovating the existing building will save the University approximately \$4 million as compared to new construction. KCUMB will reclaim approximately 90 percent of the existing materials. Construction began Oct. 1, 2013, and the remodeled building will open in August 2014. Donors for the original building will be recognized in the completed renovation.



A New Center for Medical Simulation

The increasing importance of the use of high-tech patient simulation and standardized patient interactions requires KCUMB to invest in a larger space to maximize student-learning opportunities and effectively accommodate its programs, including the Kesselheim Center for Clinical Competence. A new facility will be built in the area between the Strickland Education Pavilion and the Dybedal Center for Research,

allowing increased educational experiences for students and collaboration with other health programs in the region. A Simulation Center Planning Group defined the scope of the facility for today's and tomorrow's students.

Renovations to the Administration Building

Built in 1916 as Kansas City's original Children's Mercy Hospital, the Administration Building was last renovated in the 1970s and requires updates to better serve the University's 21st century needs. By renovating the building and adding a welcome center to the north wing, the Administration Building will become a key entry point for students, alumni and other campus guests.



A New Health and Wellness Center, Including a New Cafeteria

To be built adjacent to the Butterworth Alumni Center, the new health and wellness center will include a larger cafeteria with more seating to accommodate KCUMB's growth, as well as an exercise facility for faculty and staff, and space for hosting special events. The purpose of this new facility also aligns closely with KCUMB's mission to improve the well-being of those we serve.

A Cohesive, Better Connected Campus Environment


When fully completed, the changes outlined in KCUMB's Campus Master Plan will set the stage for the University's next century by transforming the campus into a learning environment second to none. Prospective students, current students, faculty and staff will benefit from these facilities enhancements for years to come.

True Texas Grit

A full-page photograph of a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a light blue lab coat over a matching button-down shirt. He is wearing a dark belt with a large, ornate silver star buckle. He is standing in front of a wall with yellow and gold patterned wallpaper. His right arm is raised, and he is holding onto a vertical wooden post or door frame. The lighting is warm and dramatic, coming from the side.

*By Christopher Ryan
Photography by Joe Griffin*

**KCUMB Alum Demonstrates Courage,
Professionalism While Working to Save
Lives the Night of a Devastating
Fertilizer Plant Explosion in West, Texas**



The next day would dawn cold, but on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, about a half-hour before sunset, the temperature held in the high 70s under clear skies. The 2,800 people who live in the central Texas town of West, including George Smith, D.O. (COM '74), and his wife, Jean, began to settle in for the night. Jean was paying bills.

Nearby, in his home, the Smiths' son, Kevin, tired after another day's work, sat watching television. He was trying to decide whether to take care of a mundane household chore or put it off for another time.

7:29 p.m.

A call came for Dr. Smith. Fire had broken out at the West Fertilizer Company. As he almost always did, he would go to the scene to make sure his town's firefighters remained as safe as possible under hazardous conditions. He would watch them for signs of heat exhaustion, dehydration and other problems they might experience. It was his job.

Dr. Smith earns his living both as a family physician and as medical director of West Emergency Medical Services. He takes responsibility for the well-being of the town's all-volunteer firefighters. West's EMS personnel operate under his authority as a trauma specialist and certified medical director of the American Medical Directors Association.

In addition to his duties with EMS, Dr. Smith is medical director of the West Rest Haven nursing home, which is located across the street from the fertilizer plant. Given the potential for toxic smoke wafting into the facility, he wanted to make sure the patients and staff were safe.

He knew what needed to be done. A plan had been in place for some time. After all, West Rest Haven is in a vulnerable position when it comes to the potential for airborne toxic chemicals. The building is close not only to the West Fertilizer Company, but also to the railroad tracks and to Interstate 35. Any of them could be the site of an accident involving the release of hazardous material.

Jean considered the rest of the bills she had to pay and decided to take a break. She told her husband she would like to go along with him. It was something she rarely did.

continued on page 16



Dr. Smith walks through his house April 27 with longtime friend Daniela Ranzinget, left, located in the most damaged area of West, Texas. He was one block away at the nursing home when the explosion occurred.

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7:31 p.m.

Dr. Smith parked his heavy-duty pickup on the west side of West Rest Haven, the side away from the fertilizer plant. It had been a short drive. The Smiths live only about 250 yards from the plant. Jean stayed in the truck while her husband entered the nursing home.

Inside, Dr. Smith found a nurse and told her to page all personnel. When the staff had gathered around him, he issued instructions to move all patients from the east side of the building – the fire side – to the west side as rapidly as possible. He was following a “shelter in place” strategy that works best for people unable to move quickly to evacuate in an emergency.

The staff transferred the patients, turned off the air conditioners and placed towels under doors that opened to the outside. Sealing the doors would help keep toxic chemicals from seeping into the structure. When almost everyone had retreated to the west side of the building, Dr. Smith remained at a nursing station on the east side, making sure no one was left behind.

7:49 p.m.

Dr. Smith found himself face down on the nursing home floor, bleeding and buried under debris from the collapsed roof. In an instant, the building had been destroyed. Windows on the east side had blown inward, showering the patient rooms with daggers of glass. If the residents had not been escorted away a short time earlier, most or perhaps all of them would have died.

As it was, no one was killed or seriously injured at West Rest Haven. The shards could not reach them and, although all the windows on the west side of the building also were shattered, the glass blew away from the patients and staff, falling harmlessly in the parking lot.

Dr. Smith crawled out of the wreckage and quickly determined that his injuries were far less serious than they might have been. His first thought concerned his wife. Would Jean be alive, seriously injured? Assured that no one else in the nursing home was badly hurt, he made his way to the parking lot, then to his truck, which was heavily damaged.

Inside the vehicle, he found Jean, shaken, cut by glass from the pickup’s windows, but alive and able to tell him what had happened. The blast had lifted the heavy truck off the ground, and she had been afraid it would roll over.

A chunk of concrete had smashed into the door where Jean sat and gouged a hole about two and a half feet in diameter just an inch below the window. Had it hit

much higher, Jean likely would not have been describing her experience.

Once he knew his wife was all right, Dr. Smith wanted desperately to know how his son had fared in the explosion. Kevin's home is just 100 feet or so from the fertilizer plant. Later, Dr. Smith learned how events had unfolded.

"My son had been sitting in his living room on the ground floor," he recalled. "There's a big bay window. He needed to do some work with his smoke detectors upstairs."

Fortunately, Kevin had decided to take care of the task he had been thinking about putting off.

"As he got upstairs, just before he started to do anything, the explosion happened," Dr. Smith said. "If the bay window had imploded while he was sitting there, thousands of shards of glass would have hit him."

In the nursing home parking lot, still in shock, Dr. Smith went into crisis mode. He tried calling 911, but his cell phone would not work. The radio in his truck was also dead.

He drove to a helicopter station where he knew he could find a satellite radio and told the people in charge

there to contact McLennan County Disaster. They were to let the agency know there had been a major explosion with many injuries and fatalities, and to send all the support equipment and personnel they could. Emergency services from 100 miles around responded immediately.

Dr. Smith's worst fears were not realized, but to his small town and to him personally, the loss of life was devastating. In all, 14 people died, 11 of them first responders.

Among the first responders killed were Morris Bridges, Cody Dragoo, Joey Pustejovsky, Doug Snokhous and Robert Snokhous, all of the West Volunteer Fire Department, and Kevin Sanders, a West paramedic. Also among the dead were Perry Calvin, of the Mertens and Navarro Mills volunteer fire departments; William Uptmor, Jr., posthumously named an honorary West volunteer firefighter; Jerry Chapman and Cyrus Reed, of the Abbott Volunteer Fire Department; and Kenny Harris, of Dallas Fire-Rescue.

Over a period of 10 days, Dr. Smith attended nine funerals. He had lost his home, his medical office, the EMS building and the nursing home. The explosion had taken away every source of income he had.

continued on page 18



Dr. Smith, standing outside his house, gestures toward the nursing home, where he was helping implement shelter-in-place procedures at the time of the fertilizer plant explosion.





Dr. Smith checks supplies while working from a temporary location after his clinic was destroyed in the April 17 explosion.

"I don't consider myself a hero. The real heroes in this were the firefighters who, after they saw the explosion and after they saw their comrades killed, stayed there to fight that fire."

George Smith, D.O. (COM '74)

The Aftermath

Looking back on the disaster that struck his town, Dr. Smith said, "We should have had many, many more fatalities. We should have had many, many more injuries."

What made the difference between 14 deaths and possibly hundreds, between 200 injuries and potentially far more?

The answer has to do with luck, planning and courage. Where luck played a significant role is clear, at least for Dr. Smith. Had his wife decided to stay home instead of accompany him on the fire call, she likely would not have survived. Their home was destroyed. Had their son Kevin not decided to fix the smoke detectors instead of watch television in front of the bay window, he probably would have been killed. If the wind had been blowing in the wrong direction that night, many of the nursing home patients would have succumbed to toxic smoke before they could be evacuated from the shattered building.

It is equally clear that solid disaster planning saved lives. Nursing home patients killed by flying glass could have quickly raised the death toll to more than 100 had Dr. Smith not forced them to move from the east side of West Rest Haven to the west side. That there were sufficient emergency personnel and equipment available quickly is another sign of good planning, as is the number of well-trained local firefighters and EMS personnel. The results of that planning are quantifiable.

"I want to put some things in perspective," Dr. Smith said. "We have a volunteer EMS as well as a volunteer fire department. We had three ambulances, and two of them were totaled that night. But we had a lot of help from other people. We had more than 200 injured and 133 from the nursing home evacuated and at the hospital in less than three hours.

"Our trauma center (Level 2) is 30 miles away. The Level 1 center is an hour away. We had more fatalities, more injuries than (the Boston Marathon bombing), and they probably have five Level 1 trauma centers within 10 miles, a professional fire department, and we did more than they did. And, I'm not knocking them. I'm just telling you, I'm very proud of my people."

And then, there's the unquantifiable matter of courage. Dr. Smith discounts it as far as his own actions are concerned.

"I don't consider myself a hero," he said. "The real heroes in this were the firefighters who, after they saw the explosion and after they saw their comrades killed, stayed there to fight that fire."

Dr. Smith's assessment of the firefighters' actions is certainly accurate. But what would have happened if he had not acted as he did?

"Every fireman, every EMS person, when everybody else is running away, we're running in to the danger," he said. "We know it (death) can happen to any of us at any time."

What would have happened if he had not run toward the danger of the fertilizer plant fire, to the nursing home patients and staff, and carried out the disaster plan? He knew the risks: fire, toxic fumes, potential explosion.

Yet, Dr. Smith went in.

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.



Dr. Smith accepts KCUMB's Alumnus of the Year Award from Marc B. Hahn, D.O., president and chief executive officer, at a special presentation Sept. 20, during the University's annual Homecoming celebration. Dr. Smith was among four individuals honored with awards that night. Read more about the other recipients on Page 36.

Want to Make a Difference?

The Texas Osteopathic Medical Association has created the George Smith, D.O., Practice Relief Fund to help Dr. Smith and his wife, Jean, rebuild his medical practice. The TOMA Foundation Board is managing the fund.

Contributions can be made by check, payable to TOMA Foundation c/o George Smith Fund, and mailed to:

TOMA Foundation
1415 Lavaca Street
Austin, TX 78701





Terry Presley, Jr., recently earned the first Award of Excellence in Safety Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and Active Living Research.

Probing Public Playgrounds

KCUMB Researchers Lauded for Study Designed to Promote Park Safety

By Joshua Roberts

While many students might prefer spending the summer months poolside, Terry Presley, Jr., spent his summer delving deep into a project designed to improve youth health and safety.

His efforts gained national praise when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and Active Living Research honored him with its first Award of Excellence in Safety Research.

"It was really, really nice to be nationally recognized," said Presley, a third-year osteopathic medical student. "It felt important, significant. The (Centers for Disease Control) recognized it and that felt awesome."

The award recognizes Presley for an audit of 41 randomly selected public playgrounds and parks in the Kansas City area that he performed in June and July of 2012.

The study, "Playground Equipment Safety in Lower-, Medium- and Higher-Income Neighborhoods," began with the objective of informing efforts to improve playground safety.

According to the study, an average of 218,851 preschool and elementary school children were treated annually at emergency rooms for injuries occurring on U.S. playgrounds during a recent eight-year period.

More than half of the injuries happened at public playgrounds, with equipment deemed as at least partially at fault in 81 percent of the incidents.

Although most injuries were "relatively minor" – fractures, contusions and lacerations – at least 40 child deaths due to asphyxiation, and head and neck injuries were attributed to playground use between 2001 and 2008.

Results of the study indicated the average score for playgrounds was 77.4 percent, an acceptable safety level, but one that leaves room for improved park and playground safety precautions.

"There is definitely room for improvement in the safety levels of the playgrounds we examined," said Richard Suminski, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology and one of the contributors to the project. "This is not something that can wait, given the risk of severe injuries."

"The issue of playground safety is one for the entire community, not just the entities responsible for the maintenance of playground structures," he added.

Others who contributed to the project were: Elizabeth McClain, Ph.D., assistant dean of clinical education and assistant professor of clinical affairs, family and community

medicine; Carlene Mayfield, research assistant, and Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., a former KCUMB faculty member.

The audit also determined that 17.1 percent of playgrounds were "potentially hazardous and in need of corrective measures."

Additionally, the study linked playground safety with education levels.

"Playgrounds were safer in neighborhoods with more children and educated adults, and in parks with better quality features," the study said. "Playgrounds with fewer amenities were relatively less safe."

"There is room for improvement in the safety levels of the playgrounds examined in this study, which could reduce the risk of physical injuries to individuals using them. Future studies examining cause-effect associations between environmental features and playground safety are warranted."

Presley, who completed his undergraduate work at the University of Missouri, said community health, exercise, fitness and research are all areas of interest for him. The study, tackled as part of KCUMB's summer research fellowship program, allowed those interests to merge.

"Community health is so important as preventive health," he said. "And, starting with kids – trying to promote kids to be more active – is where it's all at."

Presley presented the study results in February during the Active Living Research Conference in San Diego.

He said the study wasn't designed to expose playgrounds or maintenance personnel tasked with their upkeep, but to simply identify flaws and areas of improvement to better protect children.

Some playgrounds, he said, had noticeable flaws, such as bad fall surfaces, protruding nails and problems with restroom facilities.

According to the manuscript, playground hazards found through the study appeared to be "due to owner negligence, rather than manufacturing or design flaws."

Still, even this critical finding presents opportunity.

"It may be necessary to develop innovative methods for enhancing playground upkeep, such as utilizing volunteers or increasing the efficiency with which parks and recreation departments deal with playground maintenance," the study said. "The bottom line is that even slightly unsafe playgrounds can cause severe injuries and their presence in public parks is unacceptable."

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.



KCUMB MEDICAL STUDENT AND HIS

BIG, HUMONGOUS, GIGANTIC, ENORMOUS, HUGE, WHOPPING

FAMILY SUCCEEDS TOGETHER

To say that some western Kansas towns have a smaller population than the Law household would be only a slight exaggeration. Chad Law, a first-year osteopathic medical student, and his wife, Chandra, have nine children. To an outsider, Chad, a trim man with an easy friendliness, appears remarkably unstressed. Some people might think Chandra, whose eyes sparkle when she talks about her kids, has can't possibly be so young and energetic. Neither of them bears any resemblance to the old woman who lived in a shoe (and "had so many children she didn't know what to do"). They clearly relish their roles both in and out of the home and know quite well what to do.

continued on page 24



By Christopher Ryan
Illustration by Rachel Mindrup
Photography by Bob Greenspan

GIFTS TO BE ACCEPTED

Why so many children? It is an obvious question Chad and Chandra hear often, and Chad answers it with a story.

"When we first got married, we talked about how many kids we wanted to have," he said. He and Chandra decided on four, but that was then.

"After we had four, Chandra was, like, 'What do you think about one more?'" Chad said. "Well, yeah, one more. Then it's one more, one more, one more and you're, like, 'Oh, that's a lot of kids.' I tell my fellow students, 'Kids are like Pringles. Once you start, you can't stop.'"

Kidding aside, Chad's and Chandra's religious beliefs have played an important part in shaping their family.

"We really and truly believe that kids are a blessing from God," Chad said.

At a birthday party, he explained, a person does not accept five gifts and then refuse the sixth. So, he and Chandra accept the children as they come.

And come they have. Chad and Chandra were married when they were both 19 years old, and they have been together for 17 years. Their first girl, Alexandria, is 15 now and is, Chandra said, very intelligent and self-motivated, as well as more mature than the average 15-year-old.

Victoria, 14, works hard at ballet and seems happiest taking on the more classical and technical aspects of dance. Her goal is to be part of the Kansas City Ballet. She always wants to be sure she looks her best.

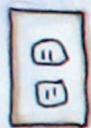
A bottom-up problem solver, Elizabeth, 12, treats finding answers like constructing buildings. She puts the pieces together until she has a finished structure. Like Victoria, she is a dancer, but shows a tendency more toward hip-hop.

Genevieve, 10, is "the silent child." She did not cry when she was born, and still did not cry until she was a few weeks old. Genevieve dances, too, and is otherwise a quiet and accepting child.

Chad describes Rebecca, 8, as a girl's girl. "Of all our girls, she's the most quintessential 'girl,'" he said. With Rebecca, it's pink everything and sparkles. She is very feminine in many ways, Chad said, especially for her age. She also takes dance classes.

The oldest boy, Michael, 7, butts heads regularly with Alexandria, the oldest girl. He is also very smart, Chad said, but does not always use his powers for good. He gets into a lot of trouble. Chad admits Michael is a lot like he once was – easily bored and always looking for something to do, usually something he should not be doing.

Daniel, 5, is a lot like his sister Genevieve, Chandra said. He is very sweet. "He'll be the one who will pop into my bedroom (and ask), 'How you feeling today, Mom?'" On the other hand, Chad said, Daniel is a little brother and wants to do what his older brother is doing, for better or worse.



Joshua, 3, loves to cuddle. He crawls into bed with Chandra in the morning. He and Victoria are very close because Victoria took over “co-sleep” duties when Chandra was pregnant with her ninth child. Victoria would lie down with Joshua to help him go to sleep, then rejoin the family for evening activities.

Finally, there is Andrew, 1, “the most difficult child we’ve had since birth,” according to Chandra. Andrew has had issues with virtually everything, including eating, sleeping, growing and stubbornness. He is very headstrong and active.

Each of the Law children has a distinctive personality, but they share one trait, said Chad’s study partner and friend Jared Norman, also a first-year osteopathic medical student at KCUMB. The kids, Norman said, “are super well-behaved. They’re very responsible.”

When people hear that the Laws have nine kids, Norman added, they think it must be a madhouse. But when they meet the children and see how well-behaved they are, nine kids does not seem like that many.



SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Chad and Norman are regulars at a Starbucks in Blue Springs, Mo., where they live. In fact, Chad is there so often he has been mistaken for the store manager. He and Norman spend many an evening and weekend day there studying. That time away from home to concentrate is possible only because the Law children are as “responsible” as Norman said.

Although Chandra is home most days and evenings, she is also a director for The Pampered Chef. Two or three nights a week, she is away doing cooking demonstrations in people’s homes. Without the children’s cooperation, the job would be impossible.

Alexandria, Victoria and Elizabeth are Red Cross-certified babysitters, and each of the children has a nightly checklist of chores to complete. This routine allows Chandra to work and Chad to study without fear of coming home to a domestic disaster.

The evening checklist system has worked so well that Chandra is creating one for lunchtime. The tasks assigned range from the very simple to the complex, depending on the child’s age. The incentives to complete them include a financial reward. The Laws do not give out allowances. The money must be earned.

Chandra believes parents today feel a need to give their children everything without asking for much in return. The consequence is that the kids never learn how to be responsible. Her children, on the other hand, will know how to cook, clean and do laundry, she said.

Sarah Parrott, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine at KCUMB, has asked Chad to give her advice on parenting her 4-year-old boy. The two have become professional friends, and Dr. Parrott respects Chad’s ability to handle the pressure.

When Chad is in school, he is in school, Dr. Parrott said. When he is a dad, he is a dad. He is “definitely on a path for success,” she said, and it is very unusual for a medical student to have so many out-of-school responsibilities and still make it.

continued on page 26

The 11 members of the Law family (from left to right, back to front): Daniel, Rebecca, Victoria, Elizabeth, Alexandria, Genevieve, Michael, Joshua, Andrew, Chad and Chandra.



WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Of course, much of the credit for Chad's success must go to Chandra. While Chad is in school, she has to make sure everything goes well at home, including the kids' education.

The Law children are home-schooled and have been ever since Alexandria started fourth grade. The decision to teach them at home was based on a number of considerations, the most pressing being financial.

By the time Alexandria reached fourth grade, Chad and Chandra had three girls in school and a fourth about to start. All the girls attended a private Catholic school in South Dakota, where Chad, who was in the Air Force, was stationed. Tuition took half of his enlisted man's paycheck.

They thought about sending the children to the base school, but decided it was a bit rough. Still, they worried that home schooling might deprive the kids of socialization and much of the fun of going to school. Then, they considered the bad things that can happen at school.

Armed with a home-schooling program that features comprehensive syllabi for each grade level, the Laws dove in. Before long, they discovered that, at least for their family, it was the right choice.

At first, they held "class" around the kitchen table. It was there that Elizabeth, then in kindergarten, said to Chandra, "Mom, do you know the best thing about home schooling? Everybody at this table loves me."

Elizabeth's words took on more meaning as time passed. Chad and Chandra learned, for example, that Alexandria had been bullied but had said nothing about it until she was out of the regular school and felt safe enough to do so. Asked if they would prefer to go to a regular school, all the children say, "No."

For the younger kids, a half-day of study suffices to keep up with coursework. The older children might spend a few hours working in the afternoon. Chandra oversees the efforts of all the kids, but with older helping younger and a clear syllabus for each student to follow, she can focus her attention on the youngest and not wear herself out.

With home schooling down to a routine and checklists made and followed, Chandra sees herself as more of a manager these days. The kids, she said, bear a lot of the responsibility for running the house and keeping up with their education.

Chad, who attends KCUMB on a military scholarship, also receives a modest stipend for expenses. In return, he will owe the military four years of active-duty service after he completes his education. He plans to remain in the Air Force until retirement.

Not surprisingly, he loves both the Air Force and KCUMB because they are, he said, "like a family."

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.

CLIMBING THE LADDER to success

Sarah Kennedy, D.O. (COM '05)

Sarah Kennedy, D.O. (COM '05), has always enjoyed the thrill of competition and the camaraderie of being part of a team. The Colorado native hopes to someday blend her personal love of sports and professional interests as a physician by pursuing a career in sports medicine.

"I have always loved sports and grew up playing basketball and tennis," said Dr. Kennedy, currently a primary care sports medicine fellow at UC San Diego. "I played Division II tennis (at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo.)."

"As a sports physician, you are part of the team and contribute by keeping the players healthy and on the field or the court. Your call is actually watching and being at the games."

Dr. Kennedy's career thus far has included an internship at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in California and a three-year stint as a U.S. Navy flight surgeon out of Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. She also completed a family medicine residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

She said the education she received at KCUMB was important in preparing her for real-world medical practice.

Beyond the tutelage she received at the school, Dr. Kennedy has learned to rely on other personal attributes to advance her career and professional goals.

"Hard work and persistence," she said. "It doesn't matter who had the best test score anymore. Every free moment, I volunteered. I jumped into every opportunity that was presented and gave 110 percent."

Dr. Kennedy's résumé is decorated with numerous team affiliations as a physician, including high school football, soccer and basketball, women's professional football, college lacrosse and independent league baseball.



The sport doesn't matter as much as being able to work with athletes, she said. Their mindset is often different than most patients.

Dr. Kennedy said, "I just love being affiliated with a team, and, athletes are always so motivated to get better. You have to know your players and always be watching. I can't think of a better field to be in."

Do you know of a KCUMB graduate who is accomplishing great things? Let us know his or her story by emailing editor@kcumb.edu.

KCUMB Student Lands Prestigious Research Opportunity at Johns Hopkins

By Joshua Roberts

Varsha Kishore has a wise piece of advice for Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences students looking to fill the gap between their first and second years.

"I'd say to future students that it's a good idea to branch out and seek opportunities at another institution," said Kishore, a second-year osteopathic medical student. "You learn a lot just in networking. It was just a really good experience getting that kind of exposure."

From mid-June to the beginning of August, Kishore participated in a research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine/Hospital in Baltimore.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) coordinated the research fellowship, which centered on seeking correlations between diabetes and Parkinson's Disease.

Kishore, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry in 2012 from Virginia Commonwealth University, described her fellowship experience at Johns Hopkins as "fantastic."

"I like to ask questions," Kishore said. "I'm constantly curious and always trying to learn more."

According to her study abstract, diabetes has been associated with multiple neurological complications, including neuropathies and dementia. Previous cohort studies have been orchestrated, though they focused on Taiwanese and Finnish populations. Those studies demonstrated an increased risk of Parkinson's in patients with type 2 diabetes.

However, no studies had been conducted in U.S. populations.

"In conclusion, in a large U.S. population-based cohort, we found no evidence for an association between (type 2 diabetes) and the risk of (Parkinson's Disease)," according to her abstract. "The inconsistencies observed in studies ... to date may be due to a lack of statistical

power within any one individual study or the definitions used for (Parkinson's Disease) themselves."

Kishore said her research was hindered because of a limited number of Parkinson's cases.

Future directions for the research could include:

- Exploring the effect of different definitions of diabetes (diagnosed vs. undiagnosed) and Parkinson's Disease (hospitalized, plus additional data).
- Exploring insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemia as a possible link between diabetes and Parkinson's.
- Evaluating the association between Hemoglobin A1c, fasting glucose and fasting insulin on incident for Parkinson's.

Kishore presented her research in August at a national NIDDK conference in Nashville. She also presented her findings in November during the KCUMB Research Symposium.

"We're still working on it," Kishore said. "I'm still doing statistical analysis. We'll publish a paper on it."

Kishore applied for the research fellowship in January. Her candidacy came with the strongest of endorsements.

Jan Talley, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics and research analyst in KCUMB's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, wrote a letter of recommendation on behalf of Kishore. Dr. Talley taught Kishore, then a first-year osteopathic medical student, in her "Introduction to Research" course.

Dr. Talley was impressed by Kishore on numerous levels, including by her boundless curiosity and the creative way she looks at a problem.

"She's very, very bright," Dr. Talley said. "She is an outstanding student. There are people who have a different way of thinking that sets them apart. She is able to take in a large amount of information and digest it quickly."

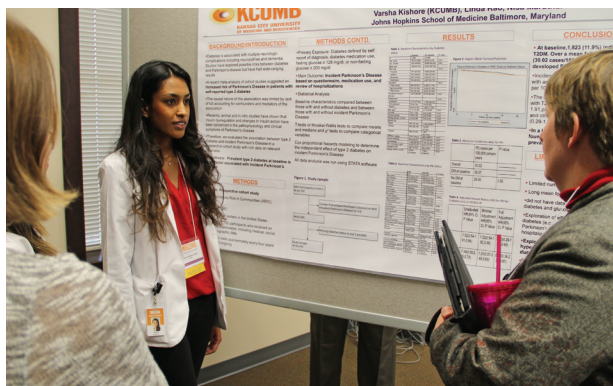
Dr. Talley is proud of Kishore's performance during the Johns Hopkins fellowship.

"She got it and she went there on her own," Dr. Talley said. "That takes a certain amount of confidence, courage and just plain creativity. She was so well received at Johns Hopkins. They recognized a medical student who has a bright and competitive outlook."

Kishore is slated to graduate in 2016. For now, she's considering a career in internal medicine with a focus on endocrinology.

Kishore said her time at KCUMB helped prepare her for the fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

"Ultimately, it was the training," Kishore said. "After coming here, I just knew KCUMB was a better fit in terms of teaching and their goals. Here, I just felt like I was home."



FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.

Varsha Kishore recently participated in a prestigious research fellowship at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Pictured at left, she explains her research findings to KCUMB faculty and students Nov. 20 as part of the University's annual Research Symposium.





Marcus Earle, D.O. (COM '13), found inspiration for a career in medicine through the loss of his son, Judah, in 2004 to a rare medical condition.

Kingdom of Judah

Class of 2013 Graduate Channels Grief, Vision into Inspiration for Becoming a Physician

By Joshua Roberts

Photography by Michael LoBiondo

So much had happened before and so much has happened since.

The vision came to Marcus Earle on Sept. 26, 2004, as vivid, inspirational images unspooling in his mind like scenes from a movie.

The images:

An aerial view of an open, desolate, foreign landscape. The frame pans closer. There are people, children of all ages and ethnicities, standing in a circle.

It pans closer. A man stands in the center. He's wearing a T-shirt and jeans. A stethoscope is draped around his neck.

It pans still closer. The man has a tattoo on his right arm, just above the elbow. Eight stars, one for each family member. Marcus recognized the tattoo immediately. He got the ink at 19 years old.

He was the man at the circle's core, the physician in this strange, nondescript land, he realized. The revelation was surprising.

Marcus worked in information technology at the time and had been entrenched in the industry since 1999. He was a network security coordinator at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. His resume included a stint at Fortune 500 company Ernst & Young.

Information technology provided a comfortable living for him and his family, a career in middle management earning close to six figures annually. Medicine was never a draw, was never even on the radar.

"I didn't ever want to be a doctor," he said, "until that (vision) happened."

His vision happened amongst the pews of his church during a night worship service. The clarity and pull the vision had on him, and the tenets of his faith led Marcus to believe the vision had a divine source.

"Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart," Psalm 37:4 says. It's a passage Marcus and his wife, Michael, say they know well.

Marcus and Michael were raised in the Christian church. A strong faith born in their childhood matured over the years and carried into their adult lives.

For approximately three weeks, the vision kept coming back to Marcus, the pull growing stronger as time passed. It replayed over and over; the same short scenes a rerun constantly tumbling in his mind, imprinting a desire.

"I couldn't escape this feeling that there was this passion developing," he said. "It was almost like I had this ... hunger."

continued on page 32

Marcus graduated May 18 from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He's now busy with a residency in family medicine at Blue Ridge Healthcare in Morgantown, N.C.

He said he wouldn't be a doctor today without the vision nearly a decade ago. He wouldn't have radically changed the course of his life without God.

And, of course, none of this would have happened without the baby he and Michael had for only a few hours.

His name was Judah.

Judah Earle, the couple's first child, was born July 15, 2004, at North Kansas City (Mo.) Hospital. He was a 7-pound, 4-ounce baby boy who was both flawed and perfect, a tragedy and a blessing.

Shortly into Michael's pregnancy, during a routine sonogram at approximately 20 weeks, the couple's doctor delivered life-altering news. Judah was diagnosed with anencephaly, a serious birth defect in which a baby is born without parts of the brain and skull.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 1 in 4,859 babies in the United States are born each year with anencephaly. Most do not survive.

The couple's physician cautioned that Judah would not have a skull or brain, that he would likely be disfigured, deaf and blind.



Judah Earle, born with anencephaly, inspired his father, Marcus, to become a physician.

The doctor told Marcus and Michael there was a good chance Michael would miscarry late in the pregnancy, or that Judah would be stillborn. He recommended terminating the pregnancy.

"It was totally traumatic," said Michael, whose dream was to be a mother, raising children in a loving environment. "It was very unexpected. It was one of those turning moments in your life. We had to ask ourselves, 'What do you really believe?'"

The couple was unified in their stance on carrying the pregnancy to full term. They didn't blink when responding to the doctor.

"God gave us this life and it means something," Marcus said. "It wasn't in our hands to make that kind of a decision."

"For me, it took maybe a second," Michael said. "I said, 'I am keeping my baby.' I never saw termination as an option."

The couple reeled – individually and together – in the immediate aftermath, grappling for footing in the wake of crushing news. When Michael got home from the doctor's office, she collapsed.

"I can just remember crying for three days," Marcus said. "It was like a gut punch. Those first three days were the most traumatic of my life. They were brutal."

Over the next few days, Marcus and Michael searched for answers while carrying the burdens of heavy hearts. They wondered if they'd done something to cause the situation. They wondered whether Judah, if born alive, would be recognizable. They wondered if they'd love him. They wondered if they'd angered God.

Their prayers were both answered and denied the day Judah was born. Wearing a beanie, the baby appeared perfectly healthy. But, under the hat, he was missing the top portion of his skull.

Marcus and Michael knew they wouldn't have their son long. Each moment was a precious gift.

"If I got one second with him, that was an answered prayer," Michael said. "I just thought he was perfect. He was just beautiful."

Perfect and beautiful are the same words Marcus uses to describe his first son.

"We were just savoring every moment we had with him," he said. "We wanted to absorb everything we could."



Marcus Earle visits with a mother and her son during KCUMB's medical outreach mission to Guatemala in February with DOCARE International.

Marcus Earle and his wife, Michael, take their children, Israel and Asher, for an impromptu bicycle ride in a park near their home.



Judah lived six-and-a-half hours. There were tender moments during those hours.

Hospital staffers remarked at how they expected to find distraught parents saying goodbye to their son, but instead found a couple at peace.

The doctor, who'd strongly encouraged Marcus and Michael to abort the pregnancy, apologized as he held Judah and kissed his face.

Judah took his last breath in his father's arms.

Judah's organs were viable and donated. His heart valves, Marcus and Michael learned, were used to save another newborn's life.

More than 300 people attended the baby's memorial service a week later.

Looking back, Marcus said he doesn't doubt that he and Michael made the right decision to carry Judah to full term.

"We did the right thing," he said. "His brief life here meant something."

Maybe what his life meant, maybe Judah's purpose, was to be a catalyst. Buoyed by the vision, and motivated to help others by the experience of losing Judah, Marcus began his pursuit of becoming a physician.

For two-and-a-half years, he balanced his information technology job with night school to complete pre-med requirements. He enrolled as a full-time student at KCUMB in 2008.

His wife and family were supportive of the abrupt career change.

"I knew he would never be satisfied unless he went out and did it," Michael said.

Both Marcus and Michael have channeled their experience into helping others, transforming grief into acts of service. They've been able to find comfort from the loss, believing, as Marcus said, "the Lord will never put more burden on you than you can handle," and that good could come from Judah's passing.

"I feel like I have a very unique advantage (as a physician)," Marcus said. "I feel like I've been given this gift where I can relate and a lot more honestly. I feel like I gained insight, wisdom, a life experience and the ability to be empathetic."

continued on page 34

"I feel like I've been given this gift where I can relate and a lot more honestly. I feel like I gained insight, wisdom, a life experience and the ability to be empathetic."

Marcus Earle, D.O. (COM '13)

Michael has lent her support and insight to women going through similar situations as she once did, women who know they will lose a child due to medical complications.

No one, she said, understands what it's like to lose a child. No one, except a mother who has been through it before.

"There's a different connection between a mother and child," Michael said.

Marcus said it was faith that carried he and Michael through the pain and heartbreak of losing Judah.

"Losing a child can ruin you," he said. "If we didn't have our faith, it probably would have ruined us. I'm so thankful we have the faith we do, because it got us through it."

Marcus and Michael both believe they have been on a remarkable journey since that sad day in July 2004. Although the years have included loss, sacrifice, uncertainty and new beginnings, they've also included joy.

Today, Marcus and Michael have two healthy children, sons Israel, 7, and Asher, 4.

"It's wonderful," Michael said, of being a mother. "It's exactly what I was born to do."

It was easy to appreciate the symmetry at work with Israel's birth. A few months after Judah died, Michael learned she was again pregnant.

Israel was born July 13, 2005, almost a year to the day Judah passed. There were only mild complications with his birth, erasing the doubt and fears that history might repeat itself.

Israel's entry into the world also helped smooth the rough edges of an emotional anniversary.

"I think God answered my prayer," Michael said. "I prayed for a baby. I was given exactly what I prayed for. I had a baby to hold that day."

Judah is an open topic at home with the boys, Michael said. The younger siblings often ask about their older brother. The family celebrates his birthday and visits his gravesite. Sometimes, the boys let balloons soar skyward to honor the brother they never met, and other times, they leave marbles or toy cars behind.

Marcus and Michael tell the boys Judah is resting, that he's no longer sick and one day, though long from this one, they'll be reunited again in heaven.

The couple said they'd give anything to have their son back, to hold him once more, though time has granted clarity and retrospect has offered wisdom.

Faith has been the bedrock, their foundation, throughout this odyssey.

Grief to peace.

Losing a son, but gaining two.

Dreams lost, realized and revealed.

Nine years seems like a long time.

"That seems like such a great distance," Michael said. "It seems like a lifetime, but it feels like such a huge accomplishment for our family as a whole."

"I finally feel like I'm in tune with what God has in store for me," Marcus said. "I feel like I can say (to patients), 'I know what you're going through. I've been there.'"

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.



Brothers, Fellow KCUMB Alums Win FDA Approval for Modified Clavicle Nail

By Christopher Ryan

John Dougherty, D.O. (COM '92), and Christopher Dougherty, D.O. (COM '96), have developed and patented a device that helps fractured clavicles heal faster and better. Now approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the brothers' device also helps preserve a person's native biomechanics, something that is key for athletes hoping to maintain their superior abilities.

It was one such athlete's dilemma that showed the value of the improvement, recalled Dr. John Dougherty, senior associate dean for educational programs and medical affairs at KCUMB. A colleague's daughter, who is a professional volleyball player and model, had fractured her clavicle, and the injury threatened both of her careers.



Dr. John Dougherty

On one hand, a fractured clavicle can end the career of an athlete who depends on full range of motion to excel at her sport. The injury can result in shortening of the clavicle, which alters its biomechanics.



Dr. Christopher Dougherty

On the other hand, repairing a fractured clavicle calls for a plate or a clavicle nail. Both produce negative cosmetic effects, especially in someone with low body fat. A plate attached with screws to the top of the bone shows through the skin, and the incision required to insert the plate can leave considerable scarring. Neither result is good for a model.

Insertion of a clavicle nail also causes scarring. Additionally, one screw used to hold the device in place would show through the skin. Without that attachment, however, the nail might migrate into the chest cavity or elsewhere with potentially severe consequences.

Despite the drawbacks of both methods, it was clear to the two physicians that a clavicle nail was preferable. Inserting a nail can help preserve bone length, and the

cosmetic consequences are less conspicuous. However, they were still too great for a model.

A clavicle nail is a rod inserted down the center of the bone, said Dr. Christopher Dougherty, who is an orthopedic surgeon in Bentonville, Ark. Unlike a plate attached to the top of the bone with screws to form a load-sharing device, the clavicle nail carries the weight through the bone and serves as a load-bearing device. The nail allows the bone to function normally, with full range of motion returning in as little as one week following surgery.

But the screw that holds the nail in place remains, and the scarring is still a problem. The screw also can irritate tissue and even work its way through the skin.

With that in mind, the two doctors went to work to solve the scarring challenge and the difficulties the screw can create. They found the smallest rod available to form the nail and so reduce the size of the incision.

Then, they made a significant modification to the way the clavicle nail is held in place by designing a cap for the end of the nail. A single screw, countersunk into the bone and driven through the bone into the cap, holds the nail in position where it can be left or removed later. The screw lies below the surface of the bone, hidden and less likely to irritate other tissue. The only cosmetic effect is a 1-1.5 centimeter incision.

The Doughertys' nail was used recently to treat a highly recruited high school football player's fracture.

Four weeks after the surgery, the player's family brought him back for a follow-up appointment, during which he was cleared to resume football practices.

"The parents looked at us like, 'Go back to football practice?'" Dr. John Dougherty said.

Turns out, their son had been through a recruiting camp two weeks earlier with full-contact scrimmages. Fearful that something might be wrong as a result, the doctors took an X-ray. The bone was perfect, though, with the nail still right where it should be.

Alumni Return to KCUMB to Celebrate Homecoming 2013

More than 250 alumni and friends made the trek to KCUMB to partake in this year's Homecoming activities, which took place Sept. 18-21. The theme for the event was "Show Me KCUMB."

Those in attendance had the opportunity to reminisce with former classmates, enjoy a picnic lunch featuring Kansas City's best barbecue, tour the campus, interact with current KCUMB students and get a sneak peek at upcoming University initiatives.

In addition, 149 alumni participated in the annual Fall CME Scientific Seminar and Update in Clinical Medicine, which offered up to 25 hours of CME credit.

University Honors Four with Alumni Awards, Inducts Five New Scholarships

Show Me KCUMB? We'll show you KCUMB, alright. The best KCUMB has to offer was on display during two special Homecoming receptions, one honoring the achievements of alumni and friends of the University, and the other honoring those whose gifts of scholarships help countless students fulfill their dreams.

On Sept. 20, the KCUMB Alumni Association honored recipients of its annual Alumni Awards during a reception at the InterContinental Kansas City on the Plaza. Those honored were:



- George N. Smith, D.O. (COM '74), Alumnus of the Year Award
- James D. Pike, D.O. (COM '84), Alumni Service Award
- Larry W. Anderson, D.O. (COM '78), Alumni Achievement Award
- Harold E. Riehm, Distinguished Service Award

Harold Riehm, second from right, accepts KCUMB's Distinguished Service Award from G. Michael Johnston, D.O. (COM '73), then interim dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Janis Strickland Coffin, D.O. (COM '98), Alumni Association president, and Marc B. Hahn, D.O., president and chief executive officer.



On Sept. 19, KCUMB officially inducted five new Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarships during a special reception honoring donors and recipients in the Student Activities Center. Scholarships established were:

- Douglas R. Rushing, Ph.D., Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship, established by Dr. and Mrs. Darwin J. Strickland (COM '65)
- Edythe Lindsey Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship, established by Dr. Darin L. Haug (COM '01) and Sarah Haug
- Merle C. Turner, D.O. (COM '75) Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship
- Mary K. Schoonover Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship, established by H.J. Scarinzi, D.O. (COM '59)
- Dr. Marc B. Hahn and Robin K. Hahn Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship



Doug Rushing, Ph.D., accepts a plaque recognizing the induction of a Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarship in his name. Also pictured are Darwin Strickland, D.O. (COM '65), and his wife, Suzanne, who funded the scholarship, and Marc B. Hahn, D.O., president and chief executive officer.

Two Classes Earn Accolades During Homecoming for Attendance, Giving

Showcasing school spirit can take many forms. Rather than paint their faces or break out in song, three KCUMB reunion chairs challenged their classmates to rise above the other reunion classes this year and prove – once and for all – that their classes were the best.

Or, something like that ...

The Class of 1978 received the 2012-2013 Strickland Reunion Challenge Award, which honors the class with the highest amount of donations between June 1, 2012, and Sept. 20, 2013. It is named in honor of Darwin J. Strickland, D.O. (COM '65), in recognition of his outstanding commitment to building alumni participation at KCUMB. The Class of 1978, led by John Redwine, D.O. (COM '78), reunion chair, raised more than \$17,000.

The Class of 1973 received the 2013 Butterworth Award, which honors the class with the highest attendance during Homecoming weekend. The Butterworth Award is named in memory of Mary Lou Butterworth, D.O. (COM '54), former dean of alumni affairs emeritus. The Class of 1973, led by reunion chairs Doug Hill, D.O. (COM '73), and G. Michael Johnston, D.O. (COM '73), had 16 alumni attend Homecoming.

Let's Party Like It's 1999

Or 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004 or 2009

Make Plans to Attend KCUMB's 2014 Homecoming Celebration Sept. 17-20, 2014

Don't miss your opportunity to reminisce with friends and former classmates. While you're here, take part in Continuing Medical Education courses, attend special reunion gatherings, enjoy a picnic lunch on campus and get an up-close look at all the remarkable changes at your alma mater.

Is Your Class Having a Reunion?

KCUMB's 2014 Homecoming celebration will pay special tribute to the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Watch for details in the Spring!

To learn more, watch your mailbox
or visit www.kcumb.edu/Homecoming.

Join Dr. Johnston and Thousands of Fellow Alumni as a Proud Member of the KCUMB Alumni Association

Stay connected with your alma mater and former classmates as a member of the KCUMB Alumni Association!

Your \$50 membership dues support many activities, including alumni receptions during various professional meetings, alumni mentoring panels for current students and University-sponsored continuing medical education programs.

Join today by visiting www.kcumb.edu/AlumniDues, by calling 800-234-4847 ext. 7284, or mailing your payment to KCUMB, Attn: Advancement Office, P.O. Box 843836, Kansas City, MO 64184-3836.



G. Michael Johnston, D.O. (COM '73)

Annual Fall Phone-a-Thon Generates \$43,000 in Pledges

Sometimes, making a difference in the lives of KCUMB students is as easy as answering the phone and making a pledge.

A team of 18 KCUMB students placed calls to alumni Oct. 21-30, raising \$43,266 in support for the University's Annual Fund. That amount represented a nearly 20 percent increase in gifts over the previous year's total.

Alumni were asked to consider making a gift of at least \$122 each. While that might sound strange, \$122 is the cost of one day's tuition for one student to attend KCUMB. As it turns out, nearly 18 percent of donors pledged that amount. Sixty-five percent of donors gave more than \$100.

If you were not contacted and are interested in contributing to KCUMB's Annual Fund, please contact the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or email alumni@kcumb.edu. You may also donate online at www.kcumb.edu/Give.

Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award Allows Students to Learn Anatomical Drawing

Thanks to the 2013 Mamie E. Johnston, D.O. (COM '17), FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award, 36 KCUMB osteopathic medical students were able to learn the intricacies of anatomical drawing from a professional illustrator.

Cortney Christensen, senior graphic designer at KCUMB, submitted a proposal and was chosen as this year's recipient of the Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award, which was established by Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, to encourage the incorporation of medical and scientific art in teaching at KCUMB. It marks the second time Christensen has received the award.

Christensen used the funding to hire Rachel Mindrup, a professional illustrator, who visited the KCUMB campus during the week of Nov. 4-8 to share tips with students and help them learn to create anatomical drawings from a live model.



Alumni Reconnect with KCUMB During 2013 AOA Convention in Las Vegas

Dozens of KCUMB alumni stopped by the University's booth Sept. 30-Oct. 2 during the American Osteopathic Association's 118th Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas.

KCUMB also hosted a special reception for alumni and their guests on the evening of Oct. 2 at the Moorea Beach Club at Mandalay Bay.

Be sure to save the date for next year's AOA Conference, scheduled for Oct. 25-29, 2014, in Seattle. Watch for event details in the next *KCUMB Magazine*.



Submit Your Nomination Now for the 2014 Alumni Awards

Active members of KCUMB's Alumni Association are eligible to submit nominations for the Alumni Awards, which are presented annually.

Awards that may be presented are:

- Alumnus of the Year Award
- Alumni Achievement Award
- Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Alumni Service Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Star-Spangled Banner Medallion

Past award recipients are not eligible to win in the same category as their previous award.

Visit www.kcumb.edu/AlumniAwards to nominate a deserving individual today.



KCUMB Alumni Association Installs New Officers, Directors

With the ceremonial passing of the gavel Sept. 19 during Homecoming, the KCUMB Alumni Association officially installed Janis Strickland Coffin, D.O. (COM '98), as its 2013-2014 president.

The Alumni Association also announced the results of its recent election. Mary Franz, D.O. (COM '90), Thomas Randall, D.O. (COM '05), and Mark Schwartz, D.O. (COM '10), were elected to represent fellow alumni on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

The KCUMB Alumni Association's Board of Directors now includes the following individuals:

- Janis Strickland Coffin, D.O. (COM '98), president
- Joel Feder, D.O. (COM '75), president elect
- Adam Whaley-Connell, D.O. (COM '01), immediate past president
- Ross Sciara, D.O. (COM '71), treasurer
- Paul Dybedal, D.O. (COM '54)
- Frederick Flynn, D.O. (COM '76)
- Mary Franz, D.O. (COM '90)
- Nathan Hall, D.O. (COM '10), M.S., MBA
- Cameron Knackstedt, D.O. (COM '75)
- Thomas Randall, D.O. (COM '05)
- Jeffrey Schlachter, D.O. (COM '76)
- Mark Schwartz, D.O. (COM '10)
- Daryn Staley, D.O. (COM '00)
- Darwin Strickland, D.O. (COM '65)
- Leslie Wiscombe, D.O. (COM '71)

Are you interested in serving a four-year term on the KCUMB Alumni Association's Board of Directors? Nominate yourself or another Alumni Association member at www.kcumb.edu/AlumniBoard. You must be an active (dues paid) member of the Alumni Association to make a nomination. If your membership is not currently active, please visit www.kcumb.edu/AlumniDues to pay the \$50 annual dues.

Thank You

**Your Support of KCUMB
Makes a Difference**

Visit www.kcumb.edu/AnnualReport to view a complete list of donors for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, financial statements and more.



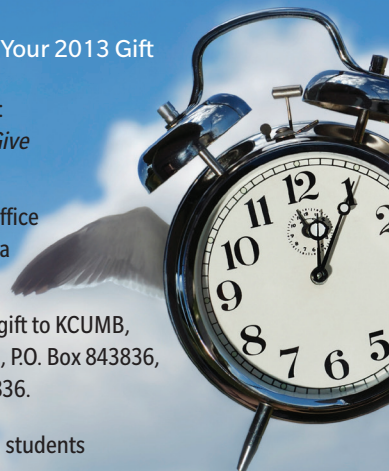
Time Flies

Don't Forget to Make Your 2013 Gift

Three easy giving options:

- Visit www.kcumb.edu/Give to make your gift online.
- Call the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 to make a gift over the phone.
- New address! Mail your gift to KCUMB, Attn: Advancement Office, P.O. Box 843836, Kansas City, MO 64184-3836.

KCUMB's faculty, staff and students appreciate your support.



Become a Part of the KCUMB-COM LEGACY FUND

Honor the Past, Shape the Future

The Legacy Fund honors KCUMB-COM faculty, staff, alumni and physician partners, both past and present, who have left a lasting imprint on student doctors of all generations.

All gifts designated to the Legacy Fund will be directed to specific programs benefitting faculty or educational initiatives and will be dispersed annually at the Faculty Senate's discretion.

A gift of \$500 is required for inclusion in the Legacy Fund.

For more information on how you can support the KCUMB-COM Legacy Fund, please call the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280, email alumni@kcumb.edu or visit www.kcumb.edu/LegacyFund.

CLASSnotes

1965

Glenn Cosh, D.O. (COM '65), wrote a book, "Is There a Doctor in the House?" which was released earlier this year by Zest Publishing. Dr. Cosh, who has more than 45 years of experience as a family physician, uses the book to offer easy-to-understand guidelines to help people maintain a balanced, healthy lifestyle.

1968

Anthony Ottaviani, D.O. (COM '68), was recently appointed as chief academic and designated institutional officer for graduate medical education at Largo Medical Center in Largo, Fla. Dr. Ottaviani specializes in pulmonary medicine and critical care, and he has served in various academic leadership roles for nearly four decades.

1970

Max Clark, D.O. (COM '70), gave a presentation, "The Use of

Hemi-V-Y Fascio-Cutaneous Flaps for Perineal Repair after Radical Vulvectomy for Invasive Vulvar Cancer," May 25 during the International Cancer Congress in Xian, China. Dr. Clark was the only osteopathic physician invited to lecture.

William Devine, D.O. (COM '70), was elected to serve on the American Academy of Osteopathy's Board of Governors during the organization's annual convocation March 21 in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Devine currently serves as the director of postgraduate osteopathic manipulative medicine, neuromusculoskeletal medicine residency program director, osteopathic specialty clinic coordinator and clinical professor of OMM at Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1972

Marshall Walker, D.O. (COM '72), was honored in October

as a Hero in Health Care by the *Wichita (Kan.) Business Journal*. Dr. Walker, who was honored in the education category, serves as director of medical education for Via Christi Health, in addition to serving as a clinical professor of surgery at KCUMB. Dr. Walker is currently chair of KCUMB's Board of Trustees.

1973

G. Michael Johnston, D.O. (COM '73), was recognized April 27 with the District Leadership Award by the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons during the organization's annual convention in Lake Ozark, Mo. Dr. Johnston serves as vice dean at KCUMB.

Donald Polk, D.O. (COM '73), was elected in May to serve as the chair of the Federation of State Medical Boards, an organization that assists in establishing health-care policies and ensuring the highest quality of medical care. Dr. Polk practices at Waynesboro Clinic PC in Waynesboro, Tenn.

1976

Richard Garwood, D.O. (COM '76), was recognized in May with the Family Physician of the Year Award by the Ohio chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Dr. Garwood serves as program director for the family medicine residency at South Pointe Hospital in Warrensville Heights, Ohio, and has been mentoring new osteopathic physicians for nearly 15 years. In addition, he is a master clinical faculty member at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and co-founded the Teen Cancer Check program in his community.

David Williams, D.O. (COM '76), recently joined the Community Health Network in Indianapolis, where he serves as president of the Community West Re-

gion, overseeing both product services and physician practices in that region. Dr. Williams has previously served in numerous leadership positions at Community Westview Hospital, including chief physician executive, chief of staff and member of the Board of Trustees.

1977

James Stoddard, D.O. (COM '77), recently joined the Supportive Care Clinic on the campus of North Kansas City Hospital in North Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Stoddard practices with Meritas Health North Kansas City and specializes in internal medicine, palliative care and supportive care.

1980

Richard Ogden, Sr., D.O. (COM '80), traveled to China in August to present lectures on the osteopathic approach to both systemic lupus erythematosus and to low-back pain. In addition, he was recognized April 27 with the Medallion Award by the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons during the organization's annual convention in Lake Ozark, Mo. Dr. Ogden serves as associate professor of family and community medicine at KCUMB, as well as director of education at KCUMB Physician Associates.

1981

William Betz, D.O. (COM '81), was honored earlier this year as the recipient of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Distinguished Fellows Award. Dr. Betz is the senior associate dean for osteopathic education and chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

William Mayo, D.O. (COM '81), was re-elected to a three-year term on the American Osteopathic Association's Board of



Casey Mehrhoff and the rest of KCUMB's second-year osteopathic medical students marked a milestone Aug. 19 when they took their first exam of the semester using Apple iPads. KCUMB began transitioning to a tablet-based curriculum earlier this year, after providing all students and faculty with iPads. As of Nov. 19, KCUMB has saved more than 1.2 million sheets of paper, equivalent to approximately 168 trees.

Trustees in July during the organization's annual meeting of the House of Delegates in Chicago.

Karen Nichols, D.O. (COM '81), was recognized in May by the American Osteopathic Foundation with the naming of a scholarship in her honor. The Karen J. Nichols, D.O., LEAD Scholar Award will be presented to an osteopathic medical student whose leadership, excellence, achievement and dedication (LEAD) are proven in the classroom and in the community. Dr. Nichols was the first female president of the American Osteopathic Association and currently serves as dean of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University.

1982

Joseph Gerardi, D.O. (COM '82), was named in June as one of 10 leaders nationally in orthopedic surgery at children's hospitals by Becker's Spine Review. Dr. Gerardi serves as medical director for orthopedics at the Children's Hospital of Central California in Madera, Calif.

Keri Topouzian, D.O. (COM '82), wrote a book, "A Perfect Armenian," which was released earlier this year. The fictional book is inspired by his paternal grandmother's story of survival during the Armenian genocide of 1915, in which 1.5 million Armenians were killed.

1986

Peter Clemens, D.O. (COM '86), announced in September that he was running for Congress in Utah's First Congressional District. The election will take place in 2014. Dr. Clemens, who is running as a Democrat, currently practices family medicine at Ogden Regional Medical Center in Ogden, Utah, where he is also director of the Hyperbaric Center.

1987

Louis Tegtmeyer, D.O. (COM '87), has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich., where he is a general surgeon. Dr. Tegtmeyer also serves on the clinical faculty in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1988

Michael Cook, D.O. (COM '88), co-authored two abstracts, "The Role of Lymphoscintigraphy in Venous Ablation" and "The Role of Lymphoscintigraphy in the Differential Diagnosis of Popliteal Cysts," which were accepted for presentation in September during the World Meeting of the International Union of Plebology in Boston.

Herbert Dempsey, D.O. (COM '88), was honored earlier this year by Lee's Summit Medical Center as the recipient of the Frist Humanitarian Award. Dr. Dempsey practices at Encompass Medical Group in Lee's Summit, Mo.

1992

John Dougherty, D.O. (COM '92), was honored earlier this year as a recipient of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his service as a volunteer inspector for osteopathic family medicine residency programs. In addition, he has been appointed to serve on the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Board of Governors. Dr. Dougherty is currently senior associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor of family and community medicine at KCUMB.

Elizabeth Trest, D.O. (COM '92), served as presenting sponsor for this year's Meridian March for Babies event in Meridian, Miss. Dr.



KCUMB students Micah Ancheta and Lauren Harriett run Nov. 3 with one of the children they helped mentor as part of the 2013 Cliff Hanger Run in Kansas City, Mo. KCUMB served as the naming sponsor for this year's event, which takes place near campus.

Trest specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at Meridian OB/GYN.

1994

Joseph Finch, D.O. (COM '94), recently joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich. Dr. Finch practices orthopedic surgery and also serves as a member of the clinical faculty at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1996

Douglas Jorgensen, D.O. (COM '96), was elected to serve on the American Academy of Osteopathy's Board of Governors during the organization's annual convocation March 21 in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Jorgensen currently practices family medicine in central Maine.

1998

Janis Strickland Coffin, D.O. (COM '98), co-authored an article, "How to Protect Patient Needs and Put Unscrupulous

DME Companies on Notice," which was published July 10 in *Medical Economics*. Dr. Coffin serves as associate professor of family medicine and medical director for the Family Medicine Center at the Medical College of Georgia. She is currently president of the KCUMB Alumni Association.

1999

Kelly Cooke, D.O. (COM '99), recently joined ProHealth Care as medical director of the palliative medicine program. Dr. Cooke treats patients at Waukesha Memorial Hospital in Waukesha, Wis. She holds fellowships in palliative care and medical oncology.

Kevin Furlong, D.O. (COM '99), was recently named Physician of the Year by Metro Health's Professional Nursing Council. The award recognizes a physician who exemplifies best practices and who also supports nurses as part of the health-care team. Dr. Furlong, who is board-certified

in internal medicine, serves as a hospitalist and as chief of staff at Metro Health Hospital in Wyoming, Mich.

Corey Gilliland, D.O. (COM '99), recently opened Piedmont Family Medical Center in Piedmont, Ala.

2000

W. Joshua Cox, D.O. (COM '00), serves as the 2013-2014 secretary for the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Board of Governors. Dr. Cox is associate professor and chair of family and community medicine at KCUMB.

J. Scott Holliday, D.O. (COM '00), was re-appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry earlier this year to serve on the Texas Medical Board. His term will expire in April 2019. Dr. Holliday is an

anesthesiologist at Pinnacle Partners in Medicine in Dallas.

Robert McNab, D.O. (COM '02), was recently named as director of medical education at Freeman Health Systems in Joplin, Mo. Dr. McNab will continue to serve as director of the internal medicine residency program and as a part-time hospitalist.

2004

Stephen Chen, D.O. (COM '04), recently joined the cardiology department at Springfield Clinic in Springfield, Ill. Dr. Chen completed an internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic Educational Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alan Yee, D.O. (COM '04), recently joined Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation in San Francisco, where he serves as a stroke neurologist. Dr. Yee completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic, a residency in neurology at the Mayo Clinic and a clinical fellowship in neurocritical care at the University of California, San Francisco.

2005

Andrew Friessen, D.O. (COM '05), recently joined UnityPoint Clinic Orthopedics in Muscatine, Iowa. Dr. Friessen previously served as an orthopedic surgeon for the U.S. Navy in North Chicago, Ill., and completed a residency in orthopedic surgery and Michigan State University/Garden City Hospital in Garden City, Mich.

Douglas Keele, D.O. (COM '05), recently earned board certification in orthopedic surgery from the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Keele practices at the Bone & Joint Center in Wausau, Wis. In addition, Dr. Keele was honored by the AOA's Board of Directors with the Bob Green Memorial Award for achieving the highest combined score on

written and oral board certification exams for the year.

Carrie Nash, D.O. (COM '05), recently moved her family practice to Baptist Medical Clinic in Brandon, Miss. Dr. Nash previously practiced at Flowood Family Medicine and Health Management Associates CarePlus Reservoir.

Thomas Randall, D.O. (COM '05), was honored by Central Methodist University on May 4 with the CMU Young Alumni Award. Dr. Randall currently practices at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, Mo.

2006

Bryce Heitman, D.O. (COM '06), joined the staff at Newman Regional Health in Emporia, Kan., where he practices family medicine. Dr. Heitman previously served in the U.S. Army, which included a combat deployment to Afghanistan with the "Rakasans" of the 101st Airborne Division. He completed a residency at Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C.

2007

John Chappo, D.O. (COM '07), recently joined Hendricks Regional Health in Danville, Ind., where he is a hospitalist.

Melissa Hieb, D.O. (COM '07), recently joined Sanford Aberdeen Clinic in Aberdeen, S.D., as a specialist in obstetric and gynecologic health. Dr. Hieb completed her residency requirements at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities' HealthPartners Occupational Medicine Residency Program in St. Paul, Minn., and at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

Keith Robinson, D.O. (COM '07), recently joined the medical staff at Danville Regional Medical Center in Danville, Va. Dr. Robinson

completed residencies in internal medicine and in dermatology, both at Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Jonathan Wagner, D.O. (COM '07), completed a pediatric cardiology fellowship at Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Wagner is also completing a fellowship in pediatric clinical pharmacology at CMHC. In addition, he earned a prestigious clinical research grant from the American Heart Association for his research regarding pediatric cardiovascular therapeutics.

2008

Timothy Bundy, D.O. (COM '08), recently joined Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Scranton, Pa. Dr. Bundy is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, and also completed a fellowship in interventional spine care and electrodiagnostic medicine.

Brett Dunbar, D.O. (COM '08), recently joined the staff at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, Kan. Dr. Dunbar, a general surgeon, now works in the same hospital where he was born.

Kendall Grose, D.O. (COM '08), recently joined Jordan Valley Neurology Associates in West Jordan, Utah. Dr. Grose specializes in pain management, physical medicine and rehabilitation.

2009

Michael Fenech, D.O. (COM '09), recently joined the staff at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, Kan. Dr. Fenech, who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, works at Via Christi Women's Health.

Katherine Stuckmeyer, D.O. (COM '09), was recently promoted to medical director for primary care at Crider Health Center in Wentzville, Mo. Dr. Stuckmeyer is now responsible

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for clinical oversight of the health center's primary care operations at three sites. She completed a family medicine residency at St. Barnabus Hospital in Bronx, N.Y., where she was chief resident.

Jamie Tueth, D.O. (COM '09), currently serves as a primary care physician at Chesterfield Primary Care in Chesterfield, Mo. Dr. Tueth completed an internship and residency at Des Peres Hospital, where she served as chief internal medicine resident.

2010

Jennifer Esau, D.O. (COM '10), recently joined Newman Medical Partners in Emporia, Kan. Dr. Esau completed a residency in family medicine at Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, Kan.

2015

Daniel Barrera, a third-year osteopathic medical student, earned recognition as "Best in Show" for his abstract, "Effects of Maternal Exercise on Mitochondrial Bioenergetics in Cardiac Tissue of Offspring," during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons annual conference earlier this year. His mentor was **Abdulbaki Agbas, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biochemistry at KCUMB.

Andrew Berry, a third-year osteopathic medical student,

earned "High Honors" for his abstract, "Prospective Comparison of Ultrasound-Guided Single-Shot Interscalene Blocks in Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair Surgery," during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons annual conference earlier this year.

Robert Colvin, a third-year osteopathic medical student, earned "Honors" for his abstract, "Carotid Ultrasound May Not be Sufficient to Perform Carotid Endarterectomy," during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons annual conference earlier this year.

Scott Mueller, a third-year osteopathic medical student, earned "Honors" for his abstract, "Molecular Pharmacology of Curcumin: Modulation of Growth Factor Signaling Pathways," during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons annual conference earlier this year. His mentor was **Frank Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.**, professor of pharmacology and microbiology at KCUMB.

Nirav Patel, a third-year osteopathic medical student, was awarded a health education scholarship by The Christie Foundation in May, marking the second time in two years he has received the award.



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Got News? We Want to Know!

Did a professional organization recently honor your work? Maybe you are on the move, thanks to a new job?

Send any recent professional accomplishments – awards, fellowships, new jobs, published research articles or other noteworthy achievements – by email to editor@kcumb.edu. Be sure to include pertinent details, such as dates and locations.

We cannot guarantee that your submission will be published. Submissions may be edited for length, style and clarity.

IN memoriam

KCUMB remembers the following alumni and friends:

Sibyl W. Anderson, D.O.
(COM '46), June 19, 2013

Lionel Gale, Sr., D.O.
(COM '65), Dec. 7, 2012

Henry Moskowitz, D.O.
(COM '46), Oct. 1, 2013

Jerome H. Fein, D.O.
(COM '67), May 3, 2013

Sam P. Jones, D.O.
(COM '50), March 14, 2013

John G. Ledney, D.O.
(COM '67), June 29, 2013

George M. Holcomb, D.O.
(COM '52), July 18, 2012

Sarah S. West, D.O.
(COM '68), July 16, 2013

William A. Weathers, D.O.
(COM '54), Dec. 26, 2012

Jonah S. Botknecht, D.O.
(COM '70), June 29, 2013

Myral C. Coatney, D.O.
(COM '55), Oct. 31, 2013

Stephen A. Fields, D.O.
(COM '72), May 5, 2013

Richard A. Carlsen, D.O.
(COM '58), May 13, 2013

J. Glen Doran, Jr., D.O.
(COM '78), Aug. 15, 2013

Denzil J. Truitt, D.O.
(COM '58), Oct. 10, 2012

Stephen M. Smith, D.O.
(COM '84), Jan. 16, 2013

Ronald W. Hubbard, D.O.
(COM '61), July 6, 2013

Christopher D. Justofin, D.O.
(COM '89), July 22, 2013

Stanley R. Roberto, D.O.
(COM '62), Sept. 26, 2013

Carla D. Waller, D.O.
(COM '98), April 4, 2013

Bayard C. Vermilyea, D.O.
(COM '63), April 4, 2013

If you know of a KCUMB graduate or former faculty member who has passed away, please email his or her information to editor@kcumb.edu. Be sure to include the person's full name, class year and date of death, if possible.

Leon E. Wesner, D.O.
(COM '63), Jan. 15, 2013

Bertram H. Carson, D.O.
(COM '64), Dec. 17, 2012

POPquiz

You Write the Caption

So you fancy yourself a wordsmith. After all, everybody knows how to *right, write*? (Yes, that was an intentional goof.) Let's test your prowess with a pen.

Write your own caption for the photo shown at right. Email your caption to editor@kcumb.edu. If we deem your caption as the most creative, you will win a \$25 Starbucks gift card and the notoriety that comes with having your winning entry printed in the next issue of *KCUMB Magazine*. It's priceless, really.

Below, you'll find the answers from the "Can You Diagnose the Differences?" quiz in the Spring 2013 issue. Winner: Brent Furomoto, second-year osteopathic medical student



Scholarships Make the Difference

"The gift of a scholarship for medical education not only helps individual students, like me, but also is a gift that just keeps on giving. Scholarships help the entire community by molding the next generation of physicians. The gift my scholarship donor gave me has absolutely changed my life in such a positive way."

Danielle Solomon

Second-Year
Osteopathic Medical Student

Recipient of the
Mary Lou Butterworth, D.O. (COM '54),
Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship



Find Out How Easy it is to Help Support the Future of KCUMB and its Students

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is committed to adding millions of dollars in new funding to scholarship endowments for students in osteopathic medicine, bioethics and biomedical sciences.

By increasing the number of scholarships and the amount of funding available, the University was able to offer merit-based and diversity scholarships to more than double the number of students for the 2013-2014 academic year.

But KCUMB can't do it alone.

Your support is vital to the continued success of KCUMB and its students. For more information, contact KCUMB's Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or alumni@kcumb.edu.

Make a gift now by visiting www.kcumb.edu/Give.



Remember When ...

What do you remember most about your time at KCUMB? If you have an interesting historical photo or simply want to share your personal memories, email editor@kcumb.edu with a brief description. We cannot guarantee that your submission will be published.



Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery, now KCUMB, boasted well-equipped laboratories in the 1920s. "The microscopic, physiologic and chemical laboratories are admirably planned and equipped," according to the school's 1927 yearbook. "All necessary paraphernalia is provided for the thorough and complete instruction of each individual student in every one of the laboratory branches. Each room is larger by far than required, splendidly lighted and with convenient sink, electric and gas equipment provided throughout."